

It matters when we put a former public defender and civil rights lawyer on the Federal bench. It matters quite a bit, I think, when a Federal judge has represented clients who couldn't afford to hire their own lawyer. It matters that Ms. Lin has represented Washington State farmworkers dealing with wage theft. It matters that Ms. Lin stood up for refugees and immigrants against unconstitutional Executive actions, and that she had successfully challenged discriminatory hiring practices, and has a long career of standing shoulder to shoulder with working people at every turn in her career.

Ms. Lin's legal qualifications are excellent. She graduated from Cornell University and New York University School of Law, working multiple jobs during both college and law school. She began her career as a public defender in the District of Columbia. She went on to work at the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice, and later the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She spent multiple years at the Michigan Poverty Law Program until she finally moved to Seattle.

In Washington State, Ms. Lin currently serves as president of the Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union, and also works in private practice where she fights for the rights of employees and consumers.

She is deeply involved in our local community, mentoring the next generation of lawyers and dedicating her time to a range of pro bono projects in the region.

Ms. Lin's legal experience is unquestionable, but I also believe it is important that judges who sit on our Federal bench are reflective of the communities that they serve.

Our State is home to more than 1 million immigrants and nearly 1 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and Ms. Lin, who emigrated here with her family from Taiwan at the age of 3, will proudly serve as Washington State's first-ever Asian-American judge to sit on the Federal bench. That is a big deal.

Ms. Lin will bring integrity, independence, and compassion to the Seattle courthouse. Americans deserve a justice system that will uphold the rights of everyone, not just the wealthy and well-connected. Let's build a more fair court system and let's do that by appointing more public defenders and more civil rights lawyers like Ms. Lin as Federal judges.

NOMINATION OF DOUGLAS L. PARKER

Mr. President, I would also like to speak about President Biden's nominee to serve as Assistant Secretary of Occupational Safety and Health, Doug Parker.

This pandemic has put OSHA's critical work in the spotlight and underscored the Agency's responsibility to act and keep our workers safe. I am so glad President Biden has called on the Agency to take the critical step of setting forward an emergency temporary

standard to require large employers to use appropriate tools, like vaccines and testing, to keep our workers safe from COVID-19.

I hope to see progress on this front soon. Actions like that can save countless lives and are a reminder of why it is so critical we have an experienced leader at OSHA who will do everything in their power to champion worker safety.

Mr. Parker's record shows he has been doing that his entire career. Mr. Parker has worked to protect workers in his State throughout this pandemic as chief of California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health, starting with his move to swiftly issue health guidance back in February of 2020, when there were only 13 cases of COVID-19 in the entire country.

Even well before this pandemic, he had an established record fighting for worker safety as an attorney of the United Mine Workers, a partner at a labor and employment law firm in Washington, DC; and senior official at the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration during one of the best streaks of safety in the industry's history.

When he previously left the Department of Labor, he went on to serve as the executive director of Worksafe. That is a legal aid nonprofit focused on worker health and safety.

At every step in his career, Mr. Parker has been a dogged advocate for worker safety. I have no doubt he will continue when he is confirmed to lead OSHA. Given the urgency of this pandemic and the clear qualifications of this nominee, I hope all of our colleagues will join me in voting in support of Mr. Parker's nomination.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. President, today, while I am here, I would also like to discuss the fiscal year 2022 appropriations bill for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Related Agencies, which we released this week.

A budget is a reflection of values. This bill shows exactly where Democrats' values are when it comes to help our working families and communities. This bill will help us respond to this pandemic and other health challenges by increasing funding for mental health and substance abuse disorders; maternal health and family planning; preventive care services; biomedical research, including a cutting-edge research agency; and public health, with the largest increase to CDC's budget authority in nearly two decades. This bill would also take the long overdue step of repealing the Hyde and Weldon amendments, which restrict people's ability to exercise their constitutional right to abortion just based on how they get their insurance.

It would invest in our children and students by increasing funding for childcare programs, early education programs, HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions, and Pell grants, and even doubling key funding for our

public schools, helping to close those important achievement gaps and making a quality public education available to every single child in our country.

As we work now to rebuild our economy, this bill would strengthen our workforce and support workers across the country with increased investments in workers' safety, the protection of workers' rights and wages, and virtually every workforce development program.

In short, this bill would support the health of our economy, our communities, and our families.

I will be pushing to make sure we get this across the finish line, and I hope Republicans will work with us to make these critical, commonsense investments.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2988

Mr. LEE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 2988 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, reserving the right to object, once again, I am here to oppose a bill that would undermine our efforts to end this pandemic.

There are already State laws that address parental consent for vaccines, but this bill would trample on those laws and the rights of young adults across the country who are currently able to get vaccinated.

This bill does not take into account the rights of children who are experiencing homelessness but want to get vaccinated nor does it consider children who are emancipated and want to get vaccinated, and it could make getting vaccinated even harder for children who can currently make that decision for themselves under their States' laws.

We are trying to safely open schools, protect our communities, and end this pandemic that has killed over 700,000 people. Making it harder for anyone to get vaccinated and protect themselves is not helpful.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.